

Message Text

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47

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /092 W

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R 101546Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1009

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MBFR, SALT, CSCE, GW

SUBJECT: CDU/CSU REACTION TO REPORTED MIRV-ING OF
SOVIET IRBM'S

1. CDU/CSU SHADOW DEFENSE MINISTER DR. MANFRED WOERNER
ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON AUG. 5 REGARDING THE
REPORTED MIRV-ING OF SOVIET IRBM'S:

"THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MASSIVE INCREASE IN SOVIET
NUCLEAR STRIKING POWER BY EQUIPPING SOVIET IRBM'S WITH
MIRV'S REVEALS MORE CLEARLY THAN ANYTHING ELSE THE REAL
GOALS OF SOVIET POLICY. THE USSR DOES NOT WANT A
BALANCE OF POWER, BUT RATHER ABSOLUTE MILITARY SUPER-
IORITY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO INTIMIDATE AND BLACKMAIL
FREE EUROPE AND THE WEST. IT DOES NOT WANT DETENTE AND
DISARMAMENT, BUT RATHER TENSION AND REARMAMENT. THERE
CAN BE NO OTHER REASON FOR THIS SOVIET STEP. THERE IS
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NOTHING COMPARABLE ON THE WESTERN SIDE OPPOSED TO THE

600 IRBM'S ALREADY DIRECTED AGAINST EUROPE. NOW, AN OVERWHELMING NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY IS ADDED TO THE ALREADY EXISTING CONVENTIONAL SUPERIORITY OF THE USSR IN EUROPE. BY THIS REARMAMENT, THE SOVIET UNION HAS CREATED A POSSIBILITY THAT, IN A CRISIS, IT WILL BE ABLE TO TURN THE STRATEGIC NUCLEAR PARITY AGREED TO WITH THE USA TO ITS ADVANTAGE.

THE ABILITY TO BLACKMAIL THE FREE STATES OF EUROPE GROWS WITH THE INCREASED NUCLEAR THREAT. THEIR ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE AND CRISIS STABILITY ARE BEING LIMITED FURTHER. THE TIME FOR THIS SOVIET MOVE IS WELL CHOSEN. VOTERS STAND BEFORE THE POLLS IN THE USA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. SOVIET POLITICIANS OPENLY COUNT ON THE NEGOTIATING WEAKNESSES OF WESTERN GOVERNMENTS.

IF THE WEST PUTS UP WITH THIS PROVOCATIVE SOVIET REARMAMENT STEP OR REPLIES WITH ONLY PAPER PROTESTS, IT LOSES NOT ONLY ANY CHANCE FOR A BALANCED FORCE RELATIONSHIP IN EUROPE, BUT ALSO ANY BIT OF CREDIBILITY.

ACCORDINGLY, THIS INCIDENT SHOULD BE RAISED PROMPTLY AT THE VIENNA MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. IT MUST BE INDICATED DECISIVELY AND WITHOUT ANY MISUNDERSTANDING THAT THIS STEP REPRESENTS A VIOLATION OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS AND WILL ALSO HAVE CONSEQUENCES IN OTHER AREAS. THIS MUST APPLY ESPECIALLY TO THE MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER AND WESTERN CREDITS FOR THE SOVIET UNION. WE MUST FINALLY STOP SUPPORTING AND FINANCING SOVIET REARMAMENT AGAINST US."

2. COMMENT: WOERNER IS FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS TO KNOW THAT SOVIET TERRITORY IS NOT INCLUDED AND THAT THE VIENNA TALKS ARE NOT A SUITABLE FORUM TO ADDRESS THE IRBM PROBLEM. NEVERTHELESS, WOERNER'S CONCERNS ABOUT THE GROWTH OF SOVIET MILITARY STRENGTH HAVE BEEN FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED AND THE REPORTED MIRV-ING WILL BE USED TO ADD STRENGTH TO HIS AND OTHERS' ARGUMENTS THAT BONN SHOULD DO MORE TO COUNTER THE SOVIETS MILITARILY. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCERNS ARE GENUINE AND THAT HIS STATEMENT DOES NOT JUST REFLECT ELECTIONEERING TACTICS.

THE SS-X-20 HAS ELICITED VERY LIMITED PRESS REACTION. A LOCAL NEWSPAPER CARRIED A SHORT ARTICLE BASED ON WOERNER'S STATEMENT. NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN BONN HAS COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON THE ALLEGED SOVIET MOVE. HOWEVER, A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD AN

EMBASSY OFFICER THE FRG MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THE SUB-
JECT AT THE NEXT NPG.
HILLENBRAND

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